

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 234

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend John Knowles, Certified Guitar Player.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize one of the finest fingerstyle guitarists in the world, namely John Knowles; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Knowles grew up in a musical family and learned to play the accordion and the ukulele as a youth; at the age of thirteen, he discovered the music of Chet Atkins, and his world was transformed; and

WHEREAS, John Knowles earned his Ph.D. in Physics from Texas Christian University in 1968, and then worked in the research labs at Texas Instruments for two years before discovering that the guitar was his true love and ultimate destiny; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Knowles left this nine-to-five world behind to teach guitar at Frets & Strings in Dallas, where he learned much from Darryl Saffer, Robert Guthrie, Christopher Parkening, and Pepe Romero; and

WHEREAS, John Knowles was fortunate to meet his idol Chet Atkins at a rehearsal for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra; the two fingerstyle pickers greatly enjoyed each other's company and were soon working on projects together; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his brilliant career, Mr. Knowles has worked with the finest fingerstyle and classical guitarists in the world, including Chet Atkins, Jerry Reed, Lenny Breau, and Tommy Emmanuel, and his music has been recorded by the Romero Family and John Galway; and

WHEREAS, his "The Gorilla Song," which was co-written with his son Jay, is an international hit with recordings by Raffi and XUXA; and

WHEREAS, John Knowles's music has been honored with a Grammy and two Emmy nominations; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Chet Atkins honored John Knowles with the title of Certified Guitar Player, a designation he shares with only four others: Tommy Emmanuel, Marcel Dadi, Jerry Reed, and Steve Wariner; in 2004, Mr. Knowles was inducted into the National Thumbpickers Hall of Fame for the second time; and

WHEREAS, guitarists around the world learn from his *FingerStyle Quarterly* and his TrueFire video lessons; and

WHEREAS, for more than sixty years, John Knowles has distinguished himself as a fingerstyle guitarist of the greatest ability and feeling, and he is richly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend John Knowles, Certified Guitar Player, upon his illustrious career and inspiring musical work as a guitarist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.